

From: [Eric Delgado](#)
To: broyles.ragan@epa.gov; [Sam Coleman](#)
Cc: fife.greg@epa.gov; petersen.chris@epa.gov; [David McQuiddy](#); webster.susan@epa.gov
Subject: Los Alamos Fire update
Date: 06/27/2011 09:39 AM

The Associated Press is reporting that the Los Alamos National Laboratory (i.e. the "nation's nuclear weapons laboratory" according to [Reuters](#)), has been evacuated due to a "fast-moving" wildfire. A Type I IMT has been dispatched to protect the nuclear laboratory from a fire a mile away and the lab has said, "All radioactive and hazardous material is appropriately accounted for and protected," reports [CNN](#). A [statement](#) on the lab's site reads: "All laboratory facilities will be closed for all activities and nonessential employees are directed to remain off site."

I have put in calls to the DOE Rep from the RRT and am reaching out the DEM as I type this.

Here is the latest incident update from the Forrest Service

Incident Overview

LAS CONCHAS WILDFIRE

Fire Name: Las Conchas

Time/Date Started: 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, 2011

Location: Jemez Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest; approximately 12 miles southwest of Los Alamos off NM 4 at mile marker 35. The fire started on private land.

Legal Description: T18N, R4E, SEC 4

Cause: Unknown, under investigation

Fuels: Mixed Conifer, Ponderosa Pine

Size: 4,000 to 6,000 acres. The fire burned actively all day to the north/northeast. Running, crowning, and spotting up to a half a mile of the head of the fire was observed.

% Contained: 0

Resources Committed: Joe S. Reinar's Type I Incident Management Team has been ordered. Three helicopters, two Hotshot crews, nine hand crews, five dozers and thirteen engines have been fighting the fire and more are expected

to arrive. This is an interagency fire fighting effort. In fire management we all work together. We are working with local, state and federal agencies.

Today's Weather: Yesterday's red flag conditions (hot temperatures, low humidity, high winds) contributed to the intense fire behavior and rapid fire growth. For a complete weather forecast for today, please [click here](#).

Structures/threats: Structures and powerlines. Power and phone lines are down in the area. The fire is approximately 1 mile southwest of the boundary of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The fire has not entered Laboratory property at this time. All radioactive material is appropriately accounted for and protected.

Evacuations: Cochiti Mesa, Las Conchas, Bandelier National Monument, and campgrounds near the fire were evacuated yesterday. There were approximately 100 residents evacuated from Cochiti Mesa and Las Conchas, and no evacuees reported to the evacuation center at La Cueva Fire Station. Voluntary evacuations were also issued for White Rock and Los Alamos. Because these are voluntary evacuations, no evacuation center has been set up at this time.

If you live near the fire or near the Forest, you should always be ready for emergencies including evacuations, the three-step process is easy to remember and implement:

- Ready - Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe spot. Plan escapes routes. Make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.
- Set - Act immediately. Pack your vehicle with your emergency items. Remember your six P's: people, personal computers, pets, pills, papers and pictures. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media and your local fire department.
- Go - Leave early! Follow your personal action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

Road Closures: NM 4 is closed at Jemez Falls Campground and at NM 510.

Los Alamos National Labs: The Los Alamos National Laboratory will be closed due to the fire. All laboratory facilities will be closed for all activities, and nonessential employees are directed to remain off site. Employees that are considered nonessential should not report to work unless specifically directed by their line managers. Employees should check local news sources, the LANL Update Hotline (505.667.6622) and the LANL web page www.lanl.gov for updates. All radioactive and hazardous material is appropriately accounted for and protected. LANL staff is coordinating the on-site response and supporting the county and federal fire response.

Bandelier National Monument: The Bandelier National Monument will be closed for at least three days due to the fire.

Summary: Active fire behavior has been observed with running and spotting on both sides of NM 4.

Smoke: A smoke plume emitting black and grey smoke was visible yesterday from Jemez Springs, Albuquerque, Bernalillo, Los Alamos, Cuba, Gallina, Santa Fe, NM 4 and I-25. This afternoon, winds from the west pushed the smoke east and north toward White Rock, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Tesuque, Nambe, and other surrounding areas. Other areas further to the east and north may also experience smoke impacts. For more information on smoke impacts from the Las Conchas and Pacheco Wildfires visit: [http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/predictive/outlooks/smoke/swcc smoke outlook.pdf](http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/predictive/outlooks/smoke/swcc_smoke_outlook.pdf).

Basic Information

Incident Type	Wildfire
Cause	Unknown, Under Investigation
Date of Origin	Sunday June 26th, 2011 approx. 01:00 PM
Incident Commander	Joe S. Reinarz

Current Situation

Size	5,000 acres
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Eric Delgado
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
US EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Ave (6SF-PR)
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202
214-437-9809